

CITY OF PARRAMATTA

Girl Guide & Scout Hall Network

Childhood is a vital stage of development. If we get it right in the early years, we can set children and young people up to thrive in school and throughout their lives.

Investing in children and young people assists the whole community to succeed. We can also work with partners to overcome opportunity gaps between children from low and high income families.

Defining our Girl Guide & Scout halls:

Halls that are currently leased to Girl Guides and Scouts organisations, and are used for the purpose of delivering Girl Guides and Scouts programs to the community, as well as space for broader community use.

Girl Guides Australia

is the peak organisation for girls and young women in Australia. They are a not-for-profit, whose mission is to empower girls and young women to become confident, self-respecting, responsible community members.

Scouts Australia

leads in youth development for young people aged 6 to 25 years. They are a not-for-profit organisation whose mission is to contribute to the education of young people, through a value system based on the Scout Promise and Law, to help build a better world where people are self-fulfilled as individuals and play a constructive role in society.

Image credit: Girl Guides NSW



Girl Guides Australia

Source: www.girlguides.org.au

"We provide girls with opportunities to grow, learn and have fun in relevant and meaningful ways.

We provide a foundation for girls and young women to be the best that they can be and harness their individual potential to make a difference.

We foster personal character based on our values of respect and collaboration to engender leadership qualities.

Girl Guides Australia is building on a 100 year tradition of helping to develop a brighter and better world... Guiding is about friendship, fun and adventure.

We instil in our members a desire to take action on issues they care about and to contribute to the communities around them as a key part of their personal growth."

Scout Association of Australia

Source: www.nsw.scouts.com.au

"The aim of the Scout Association of Australia is to encourage the physical, intellectual, emotional, social and spiritual development of young people so that they take a constructive place in society as responsible citizens, and as members of their local, national and international communities.

Scouting is definitely fun, and it also prepares young people for life in the adult world by teaching responsibility for their own actions and progress... Scouts challenge their minds as well as their bodies...

Scouting makes a direct and positive impact on the community by teaching positive values and leadership skills to youth. Every year, Scouts and their leaders contribute thousands of volunteer hours to their local communities.

We encourage the integration of children with special needs – physical and mental disabilities or medical conditions – into regular Scout Groups. We also have many Scout Groups that have formed within existing religious or cultural communities in NSW."



GIRL GUIDE & SCOUT HALL NETWORK

Current situation



10

Council-owned

10

Other agency owned

KEY: ● Council-owned land ● Non-Council owned land

City of Parramatta Council (Council) currently plays a significant role in provision of Girl Guide and Scout halls.

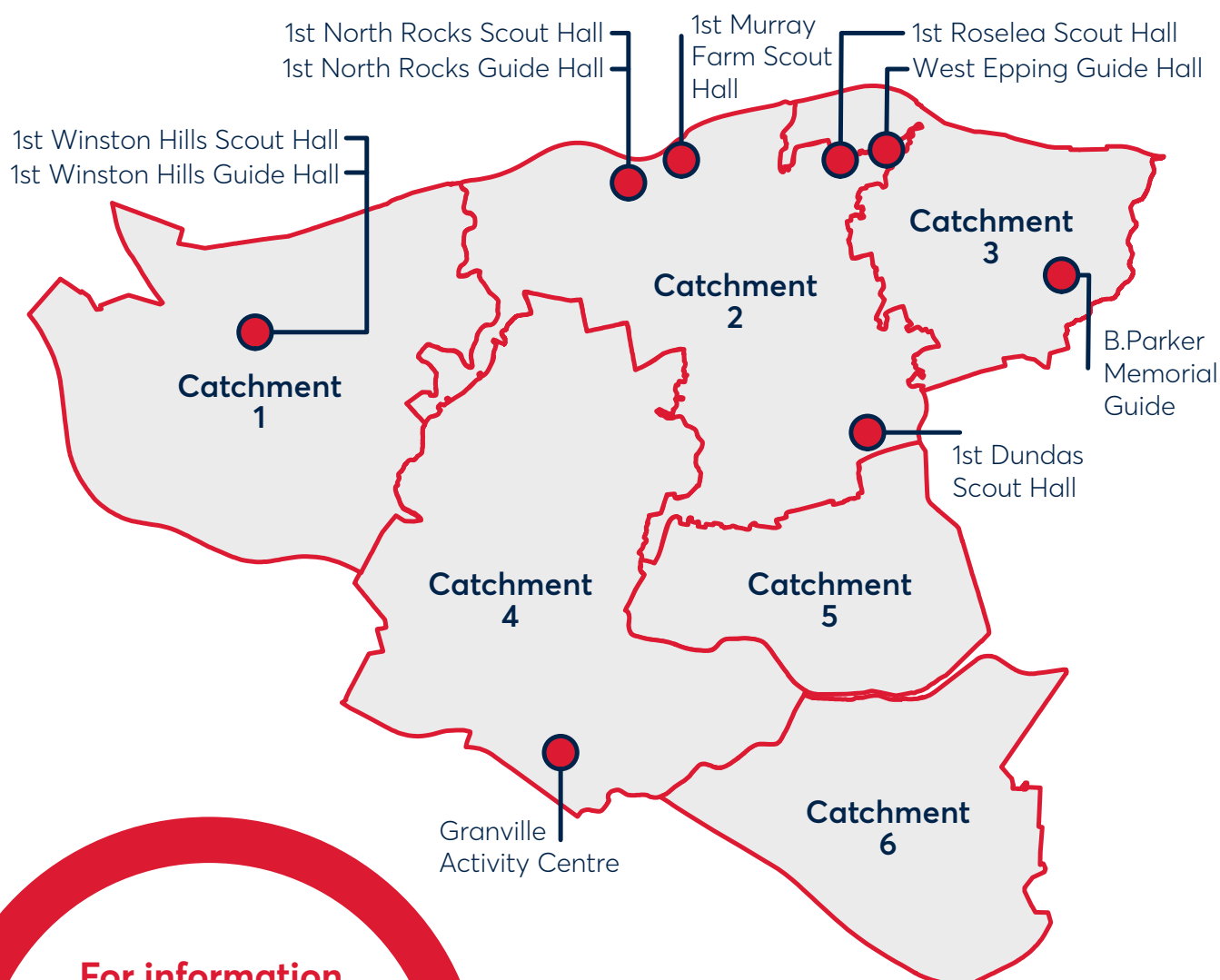
Council has 10 Girl Guide and Scout halls of 2,190 m² in total.

There are 10 non-Council owned Scout halls within City of Parramatta, and one Scout campsite.

Currently there are no Girl Guide and Scout hall facilities in catchment six.



2019 City of Parramatta Council Girl Guide and Scout hall network



**For information
on Council's other
community facilities
available for
community use, see
the community
spaces chapter**

Council's Girl Guide and Scout hall network

CATCHMENT 1				
Facility name	Users	Size	Strengths	Weaknesses
1st Winston Hills Scout Hall 1B Edison Parade, Winston Hills, 2153 <i>(Co-located with 1st Winston Hills Guide Hall)</i> Level: local	1st Winston Hills Scout Group	Approx. 200m ²	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to open space • Universal access • Signage • Good building condition • Multipurpose flexible space • Adequate parking • Co-located with play equipment, bbq facility and playing fields • Linkages to walking tracks • Spotlight 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of public transport access
1st Winston Hills Guide Hall 1B Edison Parade, Winston Hills, 2153 <i>(Co-located with 1st Winston Hills Scout Hall)</i> Level: local	Winston Hills Junior and Senior Guide Groups	Approx. 200m ²	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to open space • Universal access • Signage • Good building condition • Multipurpose flexible space • Adequate parking • Co-located with play equipment, bbq facility and playing fields • Linkages to walking tracks • Spotlight 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of public transport access

CATCHMENT 2

Facility name	Users	Size	Strengths	Weaknesses
1st Murray Farm Scout Hall 11 Haines Avenue, Carlingford, 2118 Level: local	1st Murray Farm Scout Group	Approx. 350m ²	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suitability as a Scout hall • Outdoor space (bushland) • Adequate parking • Newly renovated kitchen in 2017 through a Stronger Communities Fund grant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No universal access and significant barriers to improving access • Poor visual prominence • Lack of public and active transport access • Poor perception of safety • Lack of flexible, multipurpose space • Low integration with other services
1st North Rocks Scout Hall 9 Baden Powell Place, North Rocks, 2151 (Co-located with 1st North Rocks Guide Hall) Level: local	1st North Rocks Scout Group	Approx. 200m ²	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual prominence • Integrated with other services, North Rocks Shopping Centre and North Rocks Public School • Co-located with open space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of flexible, multipurpose space • No universal access
1st North Rocks Guide Hall 9 Baden Powell Place, North Rocks, 2151 (Co-located with 1st North Rocks Scout Hall) Level: local	North Rocks Junior Guides (1st)	Approx. 200m ²	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual prominence • Integrated with other services, North Rocks Shopping Centre and North Rocks Public School • Co-located with open space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of flexible, multipurpose space • No universal access
1st Dundas Scout Hall Yates Avenue, Dundas Valley, 2117 Level: local	1st Dundas Scout Group	Approx. 300m ²	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flexible, multipurpose design • Pedestrian and cycling access • Quality outdoor space • Building condition • Universal access • Well-utilised, including by non-Scouts activities • Located opposite primary school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not accessible by public transport

CATCHMENT 3				
Facility name	Users	Size	Strengths	Weaknesses
1st Roselea Scout Hall Plympton Road, Carlingford, 2118 <i>(Co-located within same building as West Epping Guide Hall)</i> Level: local	1st Roselea Scout Group	Approx. 200m ²	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate parking • Access to open space • Suitability • Universal access • Bushland location • Good lighting • Co-located with other facilities such as neighbourhood shops 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor visual prominence • Limited public transport access
West Epping Guide Hall Plympton Road, Carlingford, 2118 <i>(Co-located within same building as 1st Roselea Scout Hall)</i> Level: local	N/A	Approx. 200m ²	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate parking • Access to open space • Suitability • Universal access • Bushland location • Good lighting • Co-located with other facilities such as neighbourhood shops 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor visual prominence • Limited public transport access
B. Parker Memorial Guide Hall 1-3 Brigg Road, Epping, 2121 Level: local	Used by the region	Approx. 200m ²	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building condition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No universal access • Lack of flexible, multipurpose space • Low integration with other services • Poor perception of safety – difficult to see hall from the street • Poor visual prominence

CATCHMENT 4				
Facility name	Users	Size	Strengths	Weaknesses
Granville Activity Centre 2 Arthur Street, Granville, 2142 Level: local	Used by NSW Scout Heritage Fellowship	Approx. 140m ²	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to open space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor visual prominence • No universal access • Lack of flexible, multipurpose spaces • No active Scout group currently operating from this centre

Current usage of Council's Girl Guide and Scout hall network

GIRL GUIDE OR SCOUT HALL	Hours of use by Scouts or Girl Guides per week	Hours of use by the community / other organisations	Total hours of use of Scout or Girl Guide hall per week
1st Winston Hills Scout Hall	6.5 hours	6 hours	12.5 hours
1st Winston Hills Guide Hall	10.5 hours	None	10.5 hours
1st Murray Farm Scout Hall	5.5 hours	None	5.5 hours
1st North Rocks Scout Hall	6 hours	3.5 hours	9.5 hours
1st North Rocks Guide Hall	1.5 hours	11 hours	12.5 hours
1st Dundas Scout Hall	None	7 hours	7 hours
1st Roselea Scout Hall	7.5 hours	23.5 hours	31 hours
West Epping Guide Hall	1.5 hours	11 hours	12.5 hours
B. Parker Memorial Hall (Guides)	1 hour	None	1 hour
Granville Activity Centre (Scouts)	16 hours	None	16 hours
TOTAL PER WEEK	56 hours	62 hours	118 hours
TOTAL PER YEAR	2,912 hours	3,224 hours	6,136 hours

This information is based on data provided to Council from Girl Guides NSW and Scouts NSW, April 2018

Through experience, we know community spaces that are more visually prominent, are easily accessed online and have advocates supporting and promoting community use are most utilised.

Within City of Parramatta LGA there are also non-Council Girl Guide and Scouting facilities including:

1st Ermington Scout Hall

- Kissing Point Road and Bartlett Street, Ermington
- Owned by Sydney Water

1st Toongabbie West Scout Hall

- 25 Mimosa Avenue, Toongabbie
- Owned by Scouts Australia

1st Carlingford Scout Hall

- 20 Boundary Road, Carlingford

Rydalmere Scout Hall

- Vineyard Street, Rydalmere

'Bundilla Scout Camp'

- 6 Baden Powell Place, Winston Hills
- Owned by Scouts Australia

1st Toongabbie Scout Hall

- 99 Bungaree Road, Toongabbie
- Owned by Scouts Australia

2nd Northmead Scout Hall

- 19 Whitehaven Road, Northmead

Epping Scout Hall

- 6 Essex Street, Epping
- Owned by Scouts NSW
- 1st Epping Scout Group and 1st Epping Rovers operate from this facility

1st Parramatta Scouts

- 1A Belmore Street East, North Parramatta
- Owned by Scouts Australia

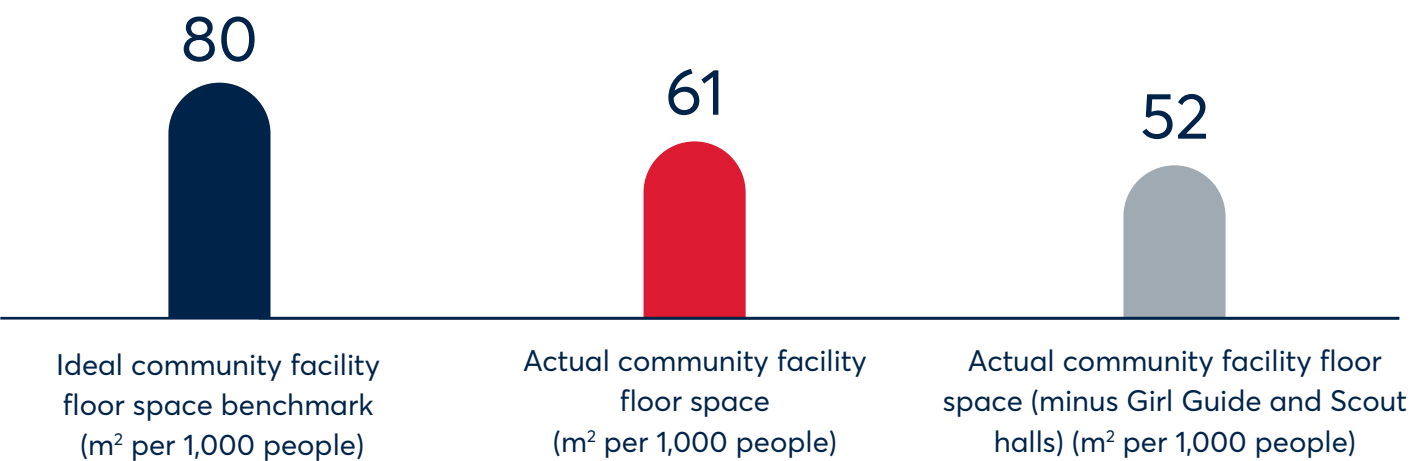
West Epping Scout Hall

- 12 Willoughby Street, Epping
- The original Scout group is no longer operational, but the hall is currently used by other groups
- Owned by Scouts Australia



Rates of provision

City of Parramatta 2019: rate of community facility provision



**Benchmark based on Elton's 'Parramatta Community Facilities Audit and Needs Study 2017', commissioned by City of Parramatta*

Council's 10 Girl Guide and Scout halls make up a significant proportion of Council's overall community facilities available to the community.

Council's current community facility provision does not meet benchmark standards and is not meeting current community demand and expectations.

Council's Girl Guide and Scout halls are not always readily accessible for broader community use. This further reduces the community facility space available to City of Parramatta residents.

City of Parramatta's provision of community facility floor space is relatively low compared with similar LGAs and distribution throughout the City of Parramatta LGA is varied.

Girl Guide and Scout halls benchmarks

There is no specific benchmark to determine ideal provision of Girl Guide or Scout halls within a local government area.

When considering the need for such facilities, local councils usually incorporate opportunities and considerations into overall community facility provision and planning.

An industry accepted benchmark of 80m² per 1,000 people for community facility floor space is typically used.

For more information on community facilities refer to the Community Spaces chapter on pages 118-153.

For more information on the application of benchmarks and their strengths, weaknesses and considerations, refer to the 'Table of benchmarks' on pages 60-61.

How well positioned is our current Girl Guide and Scout hall network?

The strengths of our Girl Guide and Scout hall network include:

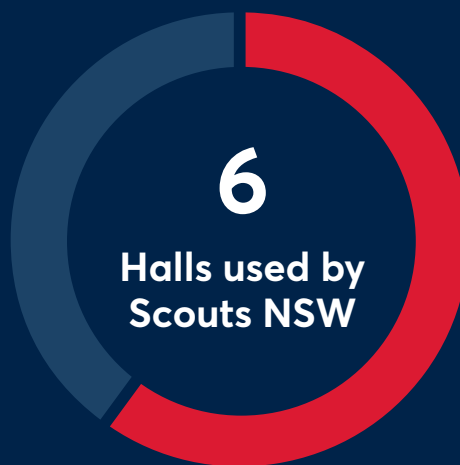
- All facilities have access to open space. This supports the outdoor programming focus of Girl Guides and Scouts, which they use to strengthen self-development in the areas of practical skills, physical development and relationships with others.
- Most have good parking onsite or parking accessible close by.
- The volunteers of the Girl Guides and Scouts local clubs are passionate about their local building's identity, care and grounds, and have been committed over many years to caring for these resources.

Despite some strengths, the buildings that form our Girl Guide and Scout hall network have weaknesses:

- The condition of current Girl Guide and Scout halls is variable with some in need of major investment.
- Many are not universally accessible and some have significant topographical barriers to improving their accessibility.
- Many have low visual prominence and are relatively isolated. This has the potential to impact on safety and broader utilisation.
- The quality and amenity of the open space surrounding most of our network is poor, with limited leisure and recreation facilities provided within the open space to maximise its value and use.
- Girl Guide and Scout halls are not well integrated with the broader community facility network of City of Parramatta. This limits ease of booking and utilisation by the broader community.
- Overall, the use of Girl Guide and Scout halls by the broader community is very limited. There is significant capacity to increase utilisation of these facilities.

Facts at a glance

In City of Parramatta in 2019, we have:





What does it take to maintain a good quality community facility?

Looking after our public buildings is important. Quality public buildings allow Council and others to run programs, services and events of good quality that will meet our communities' needs.

What does maintaining a good quality building involve?



Council develops Capital Renewal Programs for all the facilities it owns. This is a program of scheduled works designed to return facilities to be as close to their original 'as new' condition as possible. In its most basic form, a capital renewal program is a list of proposed renewal works programmed for a particular year or years and with an estimated cost assigned to each item.

The proposed timing of works will typically be based on the remaining useful life of the facility being renewed, but the availability of funding and resources may also effect the program.

Scheduled maintenance involves checking the condition and operation of a facility's services.

Emergency or reactive maintenance is, as the name suggests, unplanned. Monies must be set aside to cover unexpected costs that may arise, for example replacement of a broken water heater or a broken window.

The average annual maintenance cost of a hall in good condition of 230m² is \$20,000. This covers reactive or emergency maintenance and capital renewal costs, but excludes operating costs.



Image credit: Girl Guides NSW

Over a 20-year period the cost of scheduled maintenance and capital renewal of a hall equivalent to our Girl Guide and Scout halls is likely to be in the region of \$400,000.

How do we maintain our Girl Guide and Scout halls now?

What are the challenges with this approach?

Girl Guides NSW and Scouts NSW are responsible for the reactive and scheduled maintenance, as well as any capital renewal program to support building condition.

The time and cost for building maintenance is significant, and in an era where there is less volunteering in general, and in some places, reducing interest in membership based organisations, the ability to find volunteers with time and the relevant expertise as well as the funds to take on the necessary building maintenance is difficult.

Time and funds spent on building maintenance also takes away from time and funds that could otherwise be spent on quality programming efforts. Despite the very best efforts of our local Girl Guide and Scout movement over many years, today the overall condition of our Girl Guide and Scout halls within our network is poor.

Food for Thought: **working to our strengths**

Despite the many strengths of our local Girl Guide and Scout movement, there are challenges with current approaches to maintaining a good quality building to support Girl Guide and Scout programming and uses, as well as the broader community.

Girl Guides NSW and Scouts NSW are a community of volunteers with a passion for the development of young people and serving their local community. Council is passionate about supporting community organisations that strengthen the fabric of our community.

Council is also very experienced and well placed to provide expertise and resources to support building asset management. Moving forward, we have a great opportunity to collaborate together and work to our strengths.

CASE STUDY

Collaborating to improve the condition of a local Scout hall

The 1st Winston Hills Scout Group secured \$20,000 through a grant to put towards a bathroom renovation, which was completed in early 2018. Scouts contacted the Asset Strategy and Property Management team at City of Parramatta Council about this project. Council's staff recognised this as an opportunity to support an upgrade of the building to a better condition.

Through collaboration, the project scope and budget was increased from a bathroom renovation, which was completed in early 2018, of \$20,000 to an internal refurbishment of \$100,000, with the additional funds paid for by City of Parramatta Council.

The work included removal of asbestos, painting, cleaning, and minor repair and replacements.



Image credit: 1st Winston Hills Scouts

Profile of young people in City of Parramatta LGA 2016

There are large numbers of primary and secondary school students living in and accessing our CBD and neighbourhoods everyday.

The number of young residents in our LGA is increasing



In 2016, 16,900 students were attending primary school



In 2016, 12,550 students were attending secondary school



Our LGA currently had 32,600 young people aged between 5 and 17 years. By 2041, this number is set to increase to 67,800 (an increase of +35,200)

Our young people are culturally diverse



- 7.7% of our 5 to 11 year olds were born in India,
- 2.3% were born in China and
- 1.0% in the Republic of South Korea



- 4.7% of our 12 to 17 year olds were born in China,
- 4.5% were born in India and
- 3.4% in the Republic of South Korea

Image credit: Scouts NSW



46.8% of children aged 5 to 11 years spoke a language other than English at home



43.8% of children aged 12 to 17 years spoke a language other than English at home

Emerging trends

City of Parramatta continues to undergo transformational change. Rapid population growth is placing pressure on our public community facilities that are struggling to meet the increasing needs of our residents, workers and visitors.

Council considers the following trends as critical to the future of our Girl Guide and Scout hall network:

Community hub model.

Leading practice in community facility planning and provision has seen many local governments move away from the provision of small and dispersed neighbourhood facilities towards multipurpose, co-located facilities as a more sustainable model of provision. Some key trends that will have an impact on provision of community facilities include:

- Centrally located facilities
- Clustered/co-located facilities
- Flexible and multipurpose spaces
- Adaptable facilities
- Financially and environmentally sustainable facilities
- Facilities delivered through partnership
- Accessible facilities.

Size, scale and quality.

The provision of larger, but fewer, facilities can provide a higher quality and wider range of spaces, services and activities than standalone community buildings. The advantages of providing fewer, larger community hubs are found in reduced management and maintenance costs, increasing usability, better security and staffing efficiencies.

**What
does future
best practice
look like?**



Image credit: Scouts NSW

Changes in patterns of volunteering.

A larger proportion of the population are working and work is absorbing a greater portion of people's time. Long-term volunteers are harder to find and people are more likely to seek short-term volunteer positions where they do not feel locked in. An ageing population also means that organisations are having to find new sources of volunteers, for example, through the workplace via corporate volunteer programs. Technology is becoming a critical tool for volunteer program management. Increasingly, organisations need to be able to use technology as a tool to grow, manage and communicate with their volunteer base.

Young people's needs and preferences.

Consultation with local young people has revealed that they are keen to be involved in decision-making about issues that impact them. They prefer communication through social media platforms, email and friends and value the opportunity to be involved in community life. They prefer to interact with spaces and services that are welcoming, easy to get to and have access to the internet. Consultation with young people is essential to designing programs, services and spaces that add value to their lives and remain relevant in a dynamic society.

High density living.

The built-form of our CBD and neighbourhoods is changing, which is transforming the lived experience of our residents and the way we design and provide public infrastructure. As living spaces at home are getting smaller, young people and their families are increasingly turning to public spaces as gathering places, spaces to study and for activity, rest and relaxation. Increasing density puts more pressure on community infrastructure and public places which means that the provision of high quality, durable infrastructure that is easily accessible and flexible, is critical to creating improved outcomes for the whole community.

Blackman Park Scout and Amenities Hall

1st Lane Cove Scout Group, Lane Cove, shared use – sports and Scouts NSW

The new Scout hall and club house for Blackman Park in Lane Cove was jointly funded by the 1st Lane Cove Scout Group and Lane Cove Council.

Blackman Park is a shared facility for the 1st Lane Cove Scout Group, the Lane Cove/Longueville Guides Group and the Lane Cove West Tennis Club.

The building itself is designed to have a simple, flexible shell that can also serve a variety of other community uses.

The building includes change rooms and toilets, sports storage sheds divided by code, a referee room, a canteen and a covered viewing terrace. The Scout hall section includes a main Scout hall, garage, Venturer's room, leaders/meeting room, kitchen and storage, and toilets. The facility can be booked online and includes a meeting room, large hall, and small hall available at commercial, general, and concession and community rates.

The building is co-located with a large park and is situated beside the Lane Cove River. Facilities available in the park include a picnic area, play equipment, tennis facilities, cricket pitch and practice nets, basketball courts, bushwalks and two synthetic fields.

**Information sourced from Lane Cove Council
<http://www.lanecove.nsw.gov.au/Community/ParksandRecreation/ParksandReserves/Pages/BlackmanPark.aspx>*

Image credit: Scouts NSW

**CASE
STUDY**

*Image credit:
Architects Johanssen + Associates*



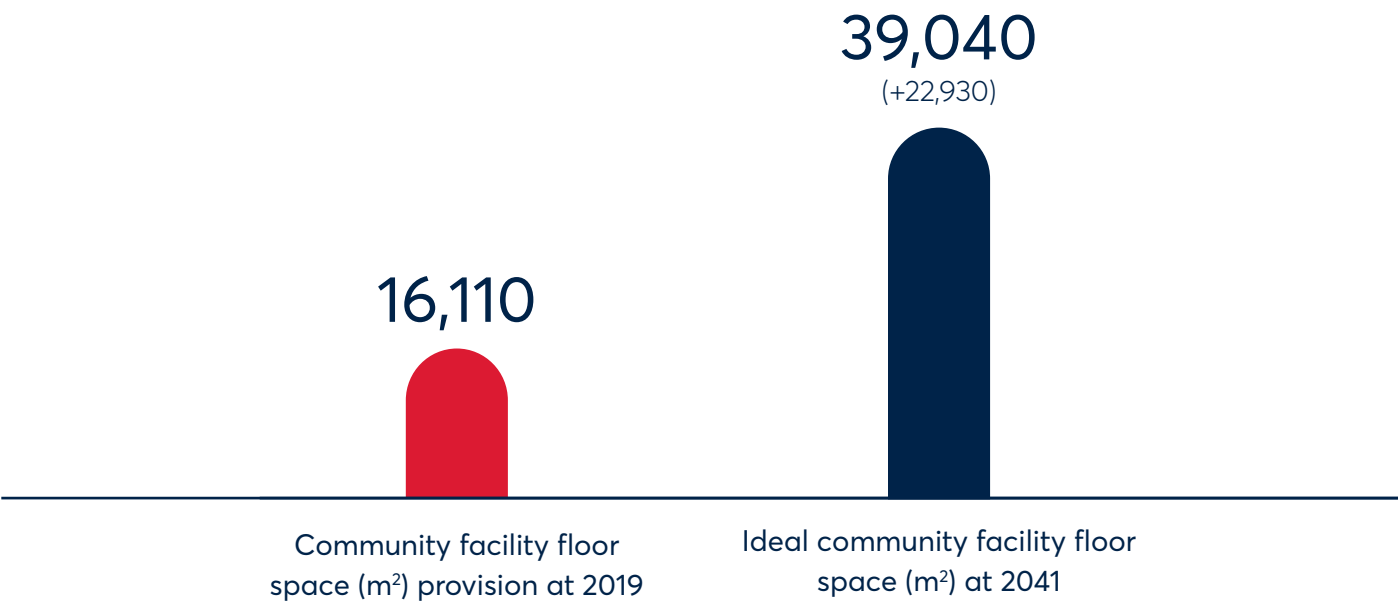


GIRL GUIDE & SCOUT HALL NETWORK

Future needs



City of Parramatta: 2041 community facility floor space provision against benchmark



Benchmark analysis

Council's Girl Guide and Scout halls make up about 15% of all of City of Parramatta Council's community space. City of Parramatta's current community facility floor space is severely lacking.

The future population of City of Parramatta is estimated to grow to 488,000 people by 2041. Based on population benchmarking for community facility provision of 80m² per 1,000 people, this would justify 39,040m² of community facility floor space by 2041. This is an increase of 22,930m².

Potential capacity and use

In a time of rapid population growth, understanding the potential of Council's 10 Girl Guide and Scout halls to meet growing community space requirements is important.

Council's Girl Guide and Scout hall network is currently used by Scouts NSW, Girl Guides NSW and permanent hirers from the community for approximately 118 hours per week, which equates to 6,136 hours per year. In addition, the community can hire some of these facilities casually.

Using a conservative analysis, it is reasonable to expect that Council's 10 Girl Guide and Scout halls combined could support at least 8,000 hours of community use per year, in addition to supporting and enabling the current programming of local Girl Guide and Scout groups.

Potential community use of Council's 10 Girl Guide and Scout halls

One hall:

4 hours per day for **5 days** of the week
= **20 hours per week**

20 hours per week for **40 weeks** of the year
= **800 hours per year**

For 10 halls:

800 hours of community use per year by 10 halls
= **8,000 hours per year**

Community use of Scout halls

Facilities that contribute to a vibrant community

SCOUTS VICTORIA

Central booking system

Scouts Victoria, in their Strategic Plan 2017-2020, identify the need to manage facilities to ensure they meet community expectations.

The Plan states "...The aspiration for Scouting is to operate the facilities that we need where we need them, but to make them vibrant community facilities used by complementary organisations that contribute to the activity and occupancy of the space and share in the maintenance and improvement of the facility".

Scout halls can be booked by contacting the centralised property services group who help to identify appropriate halls, rather than hirers approaching the manager of each hall individually.

CASE
STUDY



Image credit: Victoria Scouts

Shared use: schools and Scouts

CASE STUDY

POINT COOK, VICTORIA

A Scouts and Community Centre at Point Cook will be built on the land of a public school (Carranballac P-9 College), funded through the Shared Facilities Fund (contributing \$1.375 million) and with contribution from the Point Cook Scout Group (contributing \$300,000).

It will be used as a classroom and activity space during school hours, for out of school hours care in the mornings and afternoons, and by Scouts in the evenings and on weekends. It will also be available for hire for local community and cultural programs such as yoga or community meetings. An operable wall will allow the hall to be split into two rooms. Scouts Victoria will undertake the building works in consultation with the Victorian Department of Education and Training and Carranballac P-9 College.

HAZEL GLEN, VICTORIA

Hazel Glen College is a new P-12 school in the high growth area of Doreen. The new Scout hall at Hazel Glen was the first joint venture hall to be built on a state government school site.

The new Hazel Glen Scout Hall provides a community facility that accommodates before and after school care for students of working parents, a community space, additional activity space for the school, outdoor education programs for the senior students at the college and programs for Cubs, Scouts and Venturers.

Source: Learning Environments Australasia



What our community has told us...

The first version of this Strategy was publicly exhibited between August and October 2017, and the updated draft Strategy was publicly exhibited between September and November 2019.

These engagement opportunities allowed Council to better understand the needs and expectations of our community. This information has been useful for strengthening this document. Through the consultation process we heard that:

Our community values:

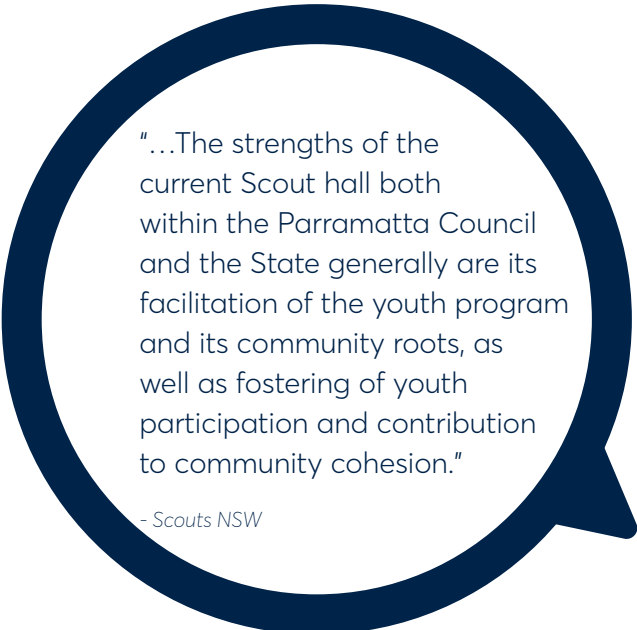
- The role that our Girl Guide and Scout halls play within our community and their increasing importance for people living in high density communities

Our community would like:

- The character and heritage of Girl Guide and Scout halls protected and respected
- The co-location of Girl Guide and Scouts halls with other facilities such as community gardens, play spaces and open space
- The existing Girl Guide and Scout hall network used by more community groups

Our young people have told us that they:

- Prefer communication through social media, email and friends
- Value spaces that are safe and welcoming
- Like places that are easy and convenient to get around
- Value spaces that provide opportunity for creativity and performance
- Regularly visit places that provide friendly facilities for young people and places for them to congregate with friends
- Value libraries and green open space



"...The strengths of the current Scout hall both within the Parramatta Council and the State generally are its facilitation of the youth program and its community roots, as well as fostering of youth participation and contribution to community cohesion."

- Scouts NSW

*Source: 'Needs of Teenagers and Young People in the Parramatta CBD', 2016, commissioned by City of Parramatta

Engaging with our Girl Guide and Scout community

Council have actively engaged with Girl Guides NSW and Scouts NSW throughout the development of this Strategy.

We have:

- Held individual meetings with Girl Guides and Scouts
- Held a combined one-day workshop to discuss current building portfolio, strengths and weaknesses of the facilities, challenges and opportunities, emerging models of practice and building design and development, as well as principles for future collaboration
- Received written input as part of public exhibition of the draft Strategy from both Girl Guides and Scouts

What we heard from our Girl Guide and Scout community

Together Girl Guides and Scouts acknowledge:

- Held individual meetings
- The broad thrust of the strategy and the desire to work with Council to ensure the most positive and favourable outcomes for all
- Changes to portfolios may be required
- The concept of increased community use of facilities, including Girl Guides and Scouts freehold sites, and the intention to work enthusiastically with Council to enable this concept to be most positively developed and implemented
- The need for the locations of facilities to reflect growth corridors, but at the same time the need to consider the existing Girl Guides and Scouts structure and strength of numbers

Together Girl Guides and Scouts raise the following issues:

- Preference for a traditional model of exclusive occupation of halls, but recognise that other operating and capital models including community hubs and high rise facilities are worthy of consideration and may well prove appropriate options for ongoing Scouts and Girl Guides operational activities
- Exposure and identity of buildings are important
- Where capital contributions are involved, long term non freehold tenures are required. The greater the capital contribution, the higher the term that would be required

"Scouts and Girl Guides acknowledge and appreciate the willingness and encouragement of Council to work with Scouts and Girl Guides on the development of the Strategy"

The strategic challenges we face together

To continue to meet the needs of our current and future community, we cannot do what we have always done in the way that we have always done it.

As City of Parramatta continues to undergo transformational change, our Girl Guide and Scout hall network will enable access to services, programs and supports for our young people and foster broader community wellbeing, through access to formal and informal opportunities and opportunities for social connection.

We will need to plan and use our resources to find solutions to the following critical strategic challenges:

Q. How can we increase and maximise the capacity of our existing Girl Guide and Scout halls to meet the needs of our growing and changing communities?

Q. How can we ensure our Girl Guide and Scout hall network remains flexible and responsive to accommodate the changing needs and preferences of our community in a growing and more high density urbanised environment?

Q. What operational and management strategies will be most successful for delivering and maintaining Girl Guide and Scout halls that are sustainable and well-utilised?

Q. What funding strategies will be most successful for delivering best practice community facilities in both the short and long term?



GIRL GUIDE & SCOUT HALL NETWORK

Future directions



Strategic directions

To meet the needs of City of Parramatta's growing and increasingly diverse community, Council will work with Scouts NSW and Girl Guides NSW and seek to realise adequate quality community floor space in the right locations, to enable the delivery of Girl Guides and Scouts programming into the future.

Further, in recognition of the fast growing population in City of Parramatta and the lack of community facility space available for our community to use, Council will work with Girl Guides NSW and Scouts NSW to maximise the use of all current Girl Guide and Scout halls by the broader community, utilising mutually respectful arrangements.

To do this, City of Parramatta Council will focus on the following strategic directions:

Current Council-owned Girl Guide and Scout halls

- **Improve the building condition and universal access of current halls,** through the development and implementation of a building renewal program linked to Council's Building Asset Management Plan.
- **Take carriage of all planned and responsive maintenance** for Girl Guide and Scout halls.
- **Increase community use** of all current Girl Guide and Scout halls, by placing all halls on Council's community facilities booking system, working with Girl Guides and Scouts to agree upon the hours and days of use required for their programming and the remaining available bookable days and hours.

New or significant upgrades to Girl Guide and Scout halls

- **Provide support and guidance** to Girl Guides and Scouts as requested on their own endeavours to develop new facilities themselves within the City of Parramatta LGA.

Where Council is requested to provide financial or other substantial support to Girl Guides or Scouts towards land or new buildings, the following direction applies:

- Council will not seek to contribute capital funds to any new community facilities that are for exclusive use as Girl Guide or Scout halls.
- Council will seek to either advocate for, collaborate or partner to develop multipurpose community facilities that have flexible uses, including uses that are supportive of the specific needs of Girl Guides and Scouts.

- Given the pressure on community infrastructure as a result of significant population growth, Council prefers building design and operational models that foster flexible community facilities within community hubs.



Image credit: Scouts NSW

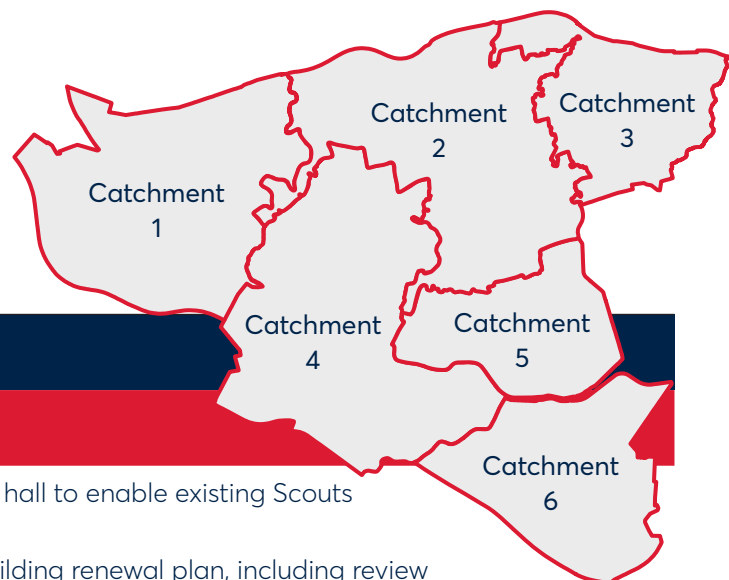
Key recommendations

CATCHMENT 1

Name of hall	Key recommendations
1st Winston Hills Scouts Hall 1B Edison Parade, Winston Hills, 2153	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to support use as a hall to enable existing Scouts programming • Develop and implement a building renewal plan, including review of accessibility • Develop and implement a building maintenance program • Develop and implement processes to increase community use of the hall outside of existing identified hours of Scouts use
Winston Hills District Girl Guides Hall 1B Edison Parade, Winston Hills, 2153	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to support use as a hall to enable existing Girl Guides programming • Develop and implement a building renewal plan, including review of accessibility • Develop and implement a building maintenance program • Develop and implement processes to increase community use of the hall outside of existing identified hours of Girl Guides use

CATCHMENT 2

Name of hall	Key recommendations
1st Murray Farm Scout Hall 11 Haines Avenue, Carlingford, 2118	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to support use as a hall to enable existing Scouts programming • Develop and implement a building renewal plan, including review of accessibility • Develop and implement a building maintenance program • Develop and implement processes to increase community use of the hall outside of existing identified hours of Scouts use
1st North Rocks Scout Hall 9 Baden Powell Place, North Rocks, 2151	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to support use as a hall to enable existing Scouts programming • Develop and implement a building renewal plan, including review of accessibility • Develop and implement a building maintenance program • Develop and implement processes to increase community use of the hall outside of existing identified hours of Scouts use
1st North Rocks Guide Hall 9 Baden Powell Place, North Rocks, 2151	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to support use as a hall to enable existing Girl Guides programming • Develop and implement a building renewal plan, including review of accessibility • Develop and implement a building maintenance program • Develop and implement processes to increase community use of the hall outside of existing identified hours of Girl Guides use
1st Dundas Scout Hall Yates Avenue, Dundas Valley 2117	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocate the hall (that is not currently used for Scouting activities) to Council's community spaces network. Develop and implement processes to increase community use of the hall • Develop and implement a building renewal plan, including review of accessibility • Develop and implement a building maintenance program



CATCHMENT 3

Name of hall

Key recommendations

1st Roselea Scout Hall

*Plympton Road,
Carlingford, 2118*

- Continue to support use as a hall to enable existing Scouts programming
- Develop and implement a building renewal plan, including review of accessibility
- Develop and implement a building maintenance program
- Develop and implement processes to increase community use of the hall outside of existing identified hours of Scouts use
- Develop and implement a landscape master plan to embellish the open space at the site to create an adventure/natural play space and park to:
 - Support more engaging Scouts uses for this Scout group and nearby groups, and
 - Enable local community recreation uses outside of Scouts uses

West Epping Guide Hall

*Plympton Road,
Carlingford, 2118*

- Continue to support use as a hall to enable existing Girl Guides programming
- Develop and implement a building renewal plan, including review of accessibility
- Develop and implement a building maintenance program
- Develop and implement processes to increase community use of the hall outside of existing identified hours of Girl Guides use
- Undertake and implement a landscape master plan to embellish the open space at the site to create an adventure/natural play space and park to:
 - Support more engaging Guides uses for this Guide group and nearby groups, and
 - Enable local community recreation uses outside of Guides uses

B. Parker Memorial Guide Hall

*1-3 Brigg Road,
Epping, 2121*

- Continue to support use as a hall to enable existing Girl Guides programming
- Develop and implement a building renewal plan, including review of accessibility
- Develop and implement a building maintenance program
- Develop and implement processes to increase community use of the hall outside of existing identified hours of Girl Guides use

CATCHMENT 4

Name of hall

Key recommendations

Activity centre – currently used for storage only

*2 Arthur Street,
Granville 2142*

- Develop and implement a building renewal plan, including review of accessibility
- Develop and implement a building maintenance program
- Develop and implement processes to increase community use of the hall outside of existing identified hours of Scouts use
- Engage with Scouts NSW and NSW Scouts Heritage Fellowship on the master planning of F.S. Garside Park and 1-3 Onslow Street (situated close by), which includes opportunities for development of new recreation and community facilities to support flexible community uses

CATCHMENT 5	
Name of hall	Key recommendations
N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Engage with Girl Guides NSW and Scouts NSW during precinct renewal planning in this catchment to determine need and opportunity for provision of community facility space to support Scouts and Guide programming.

CATCHMENT 6	
Name of hall	Key recommendations
N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Engage with Girl Guides NSW and Scouts NSW during precinct renewal planning in this catchment to determine need and opportunity for provision of community facility space to support Scouts and Guide programming.



Image credit: Scouts NSW

Implementation

Implementing the strategic directions and key recommendations outlined here will require adjustment from Council as well as Girl Guides NSW and Scouts NSW. Council will engage with partners to develop a shared vision for a staged implementation.

Stage one implementation will commence following Council endorsement of the Strategy, and involve two to three halls as pilot sites. It is envisaged that the pilot would run for approximately two years. The objectives for Stage one include:

- Identifying the two to three pilot sites
- Assessing the need, and establishing as required, reasonable secure storage to support Girl Guides and Scouts programming, and other users
- Developing and implementing processes to support community use of halls, including booking of facilities via Council bookings system and flexible use arrangements
- Assessing building accessibility against DDA standards and making recommendations to support access and inclusion
- Developing a building renewal plan
- Developing and commencing implementation of a building maintenance program
- Revising and updating relevant formal documentation.

Stage two implementation will involve transferring and embedding the learnings and processes from stage one to the whole network of Council-owned Scout and Guide halls.



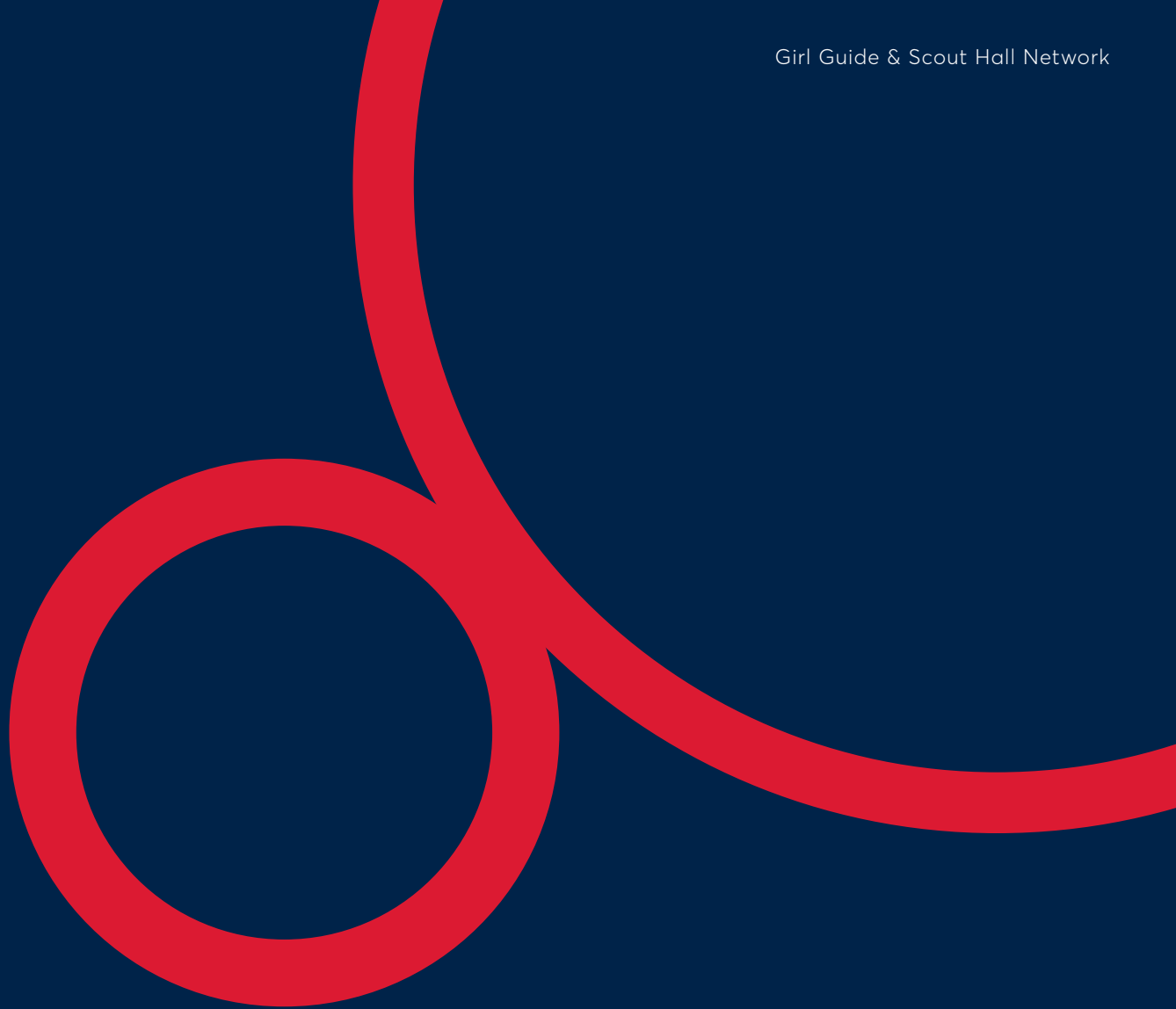
Image credit: Girl Guides NSW

Criteria to guide decision making for new community facilities to support Girl Guide and Scouts

The following criteria complement and are to be used in conjunction with City of Parramatta's stated principles for community infrastructure planning found on pages 63-65. Council will use them to guide decision making and discussion with stakeholders and partners about new infrastructure opportunities that support Girl Guide and Scouts.

For all scenarios, will the additional space:	Be designed to maximise flexibility in use and be capable of accomodating a range of uses?
	Be of a size that is viable for Girl Guide and Scout use as well as community use?
	Be physically accessible and employ universal design and safety by design principles?
	Be co-located with other facilities and services to maximise efficiency and quality (e.g. open space)?
	Be located within close proximity to regular public transport services?
	Be financially viable and give consideration to ongoing staffing, operational and maintenance costs?





For more information:

This Community Infrastructure Strategy draws on the knowledge and experience of many staff from across Council who have a passion for enabling socially sustainable communities. Together with feedback from our community, and our key stakeholders, this document has been a shared effort.

For further information on City of Parramatta's Girl Guide and Scout hall network, or Council's key strategic directions, the following resources are available:

- "Sharing the Opportunities of Growth for All – Socially Sustainable Parramatta Framework":
<https://www.cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au/sites/council/files/2018-09/socially-sustainable-parramatta-framework.pdf>
- City of Parramatta Council's website:
www.cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au
- City of Parramatta Customer Contact Centre:
9806 5050
- For access to demographic data:
<http://profile.id.com.au/parramatta>